

REMARKS

In order to promote administrative efficiency and better communication, the Examiner is invited to make suggestions at any time during the proceedings, via phone, fax or e-mail, whenever such suggestions are within the Examiner's discretion as an aid to placing the claims in order for allowance in a timely manner.

Examiner's Points 1-7; §102 & 103 Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claims on various grounds but has also indicated that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although Applicant does not agree with the reasoning of the examiner in rejecting the base claim or claims 6-9, Applicant has nonetheless cancelled claim 1 without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application thereon. Applicant has otherwise amended the remaining claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner, including further claims 6-9 as dependent claims on the now allowable claim 2.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has followed the Examiner's suggestion and respectfully requests confirmation of allowance of amended claims 2-5 and 6-9 (now dependent on allowable claim 2), via a Notice of Allowability of these claims.